



WARRIOR SPIRIT



2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team
25th Infantry Division



Q2-2014



Command Team's Foreword

Warriors! The entire Brigade Combat Team has done a tremendous job over the last several weeks preparing our equipment for deployment to the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, CA and doing it very safely. We have prepared over a thousand vehicles and containers for movement, processed everything to standard, moved it all to the pier at Pearl harbor and Sand Island and loaded a number of ships. All done with the focus and attention such a difficult task requires. What is truly amazing is that the out load was done while several hundred of the Brigade's leaders were gone at the Leader Training Program at NTC and that it was all done with zero safety incidents. Simply Awesome.

Our Torch party and ADVON are now receiving our equipment in California. Get ready for the best training the Army can provide an entire Brigade Combat Team. Our positive attitude, willingness to learn and grow, and ownership of our training will make for a tremendous training experience. We will finish the training rotation much better as individual Soldiers and as an entire team. When we leave California in early June, we will leave confident in our skills and abilities as a Brigade Combat Team and ready to answer our nation's call.

We have also been doing other tasks extremely well as we have been preparing for the NTC rotation. Individuals and teams from across the Brigade continue to achieve excellence in training. In the last few months, the Brigade has produced the Division's Soldier and NCO of the Year, Spc. Gerald Batey and Sgt. Joshua Parrish, who will next compete at the USARPAC level; 46 Air Assault School graduates; two Ranger School Graduates (the Warrior SBCT is currently the #2 BCT of any type in our Army for producing Ranger School Graduates); two SGT Audie Murphy Association Inductees; 19 Expert Field Medic Badge winners; and the winning team for the 31st Annual Best Ranger Competition (2nd Lts. Michael Rose and John Bergman from 1-27 Inf.). We have also had 15 Sgts. 1st Class selected for promotion to Master Sgt. and 32 Staff Sgts. selected for promotion to Sgt. 1st Class.

From now until June is going to be a challenging time for our Soldiers and Families. Communication with one another and with your chain of command is going to be key to maintaining strong relationships throughout this deployment experience. Your chain of command exists to serve and help you and your Families. They have access to resources that can make the upcoming months less challenging. Keep in mind, we are all in this together.

We continue to be proud of the things this great "team of teams" is accomplishing and are grateful for the support of our Warrior Families.

Warriors!

JEFFREY D. SWEEZER
CSM, USA
Brigade Command Sergeant Major



THOMAS H. MACKEY
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

Chaplain's Corner



As the Brigade continues to prepare for the National Training Center, I'm preparing to PCS to Fort Jackson. In the Army, we are always on the move. In the midst of all the changes, moves, packing, hustle and bustle, do not forget what is most important; Faith, Family, and right living.

First, I keep close to my faith in Christ Jesus. Everything else in life hinges on my relationship with Christ. I need to read the Bible, pray, and worship. If I don't, I begin to lose perspective on what's most important. I encourage you to look at your dog tags and see what it says. Follow your faith. If you have no preference, ask yourself if you're comfortable with the answers you've been given regarding life. The four questions you need to absolutely certain about; origin of life, meaning of life, purpose of life, and destiny of life.

Second, I keep close with my family. I look my children in their eyes and tell them how proud I am of them. I do this regularly. I give them hugs. Yes, even my 15-year-old gets man size hugs from his father. It's almost impossible to give your kids too much verbal and

physical affirmation. They have to know that they are deeply loved and appreciated. As parents, we get out with our kids regularly. Have fun with your kids. Invest in their hearts. Speak to them about life and how to understand it. When they do something they shouldn't do, don't just punish them. Instead, speak to their heart and explain what their actions mean and what those types of behaviors can and will eventually lead to that would be so damaging to their lives.

Third, I do the right thing. Live ethically and morally. That's too easy...or is it? I'm not so sure anymore. The number of Soldiers who have been put out of the Army who were in our Brigade formation when I got here back in 2011 is more than a battalion's worth of Soldiers. That's a lot of Soldiers who are now civilians, not because they wanted to be civilians again, but because they made choices that resulted in their dismissal from our ranks. Being in the right place at the right time and in the right uniform used to be good enough. Now it's not. After work, when the uniform comes off, what then? That's where all the trouble comes from. If what you or I do is considered a vice or unhealthy, then we need to avoid it at all costs. There's a simple piece of wisdom in scripture that captures it best, "A man reaps what he sows." I hope and pray for all the Soldiers with whom I serve - that you would know, follow, and be blessed by God.

God Bless,
CH Koeman

Warrior Spear Staff

Layout and Design
Sgt. Daniel K. Johnson

Editor
Staff Sgt. Sean Everette

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Kari McEwen

Brigade Media

www.facebook.com/2SBCTWarriors
www.army.mil/warriors
[@2SBCTWarriors](https://www.instagram.com/2SBCTWarriors)

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U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Sweezer, the new senior enlisted advisor for the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, accepts the noncommissioned officer sword from Col. Thomas Mackey, 2nd SBCT commander, as part of the Change of Responsibility ceremony held on Weyand Field here Jan. 24. Sweezer is taking over the as the Warrior Brigade senior noncommissioned officer from Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Crosby.

Warrior Brigade Gets New CSM

**By Staff Sgt. Sean Everett
Brigade Public Affairs**

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Crosby passed the symbolic Noncommissioned Officers’ Sword and the responsibility of senior enlisted advisor of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division to Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Sweezer in a ceremony on Weyand Field here Jan. 24.

Crosby spent 18 months as the Warrior brigade’s senior noncommissioned officer. During the ceremony, Col. Thomas Mackey, 2nd SBCT’s commander,

touched on what Crosby is leaving behind with his Soldiers.

“The legacy that Command Sgt. Maj. Crosby leaves with us will not be a physical structure you can touch or a tangible thing,” said Mackey. “It will be a generation of Soldiers who now have a positive example of leadership and a template for the future. These Warriors will be better leaders, inform critical decisions, or light the way forward in an uncertain scenario because we will all think, ‘What did Command Sgt. Maj. Crosby do in this situation, or how would he approach this problem?’ The desire to ‘Be like Mike’ may have nothing to do with Michael Jordan in the future and everything

to do with Mike Crosby.”

During his remarks, Crosby gave his Warrior brigade Soldiers parting advice on how to be successful.

“I would like to leave you with what I tell every new Soldier,” Crosby said. “Stay committed to yourself and your family every day. Stay committed to your company, troop, or battery; squad, section, and team. Give 100% every day. Stay committed to getting in the best physical condition of your life every day. Go hard. Stay committed to informing your chain of command of any issues that you or your family may have. They will give you every resource the Army has to offer, but you must inform them.”

Mackey also talked about his new command sergeant major, saying that Sweezer would help the brigade continue to grow and develop as a team, and provide much needed continuity as the brigade changes command later this year.

Sweezer said he is looking forward to the challenges ahead, and continuing the legacy Crosby is leaving behind.

“It is an honor and a privilege to assume responsibility as the command sergeant major for these great Soldiers and their Families,” said Sweezer. “I’d like to think the Army got this one right for selecting me and giving me the opportunity to be a part of such a great organization.”



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Sweezer, the new senior enlisted advisor for the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, salutes Col. Thomas Mackey (off picture), the 2nd SBCT commander, at the conclusion of the Change of Responsibility ceremony held on Weyand Field here Jan. 24. Sweezer is taking over the as the Warrior Brigade senior noncommissioned officer from Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Crosby.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Sweezer (right), the incoming senior enlisted advisor for the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Crosby, the outgoing 2nd SBCT senior enlisted advisor, follow Col. Thomas Mackey, 2nd SBCT commander, back to their positions in front of the Warrior Brigade during the Change of Responsibility ceremony held on Weyand Field here Jan. 24. Sweezer is taking over the as the Warrior Brigade senior noncommissioned officer from Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Crosby.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Maj. Gen. Kurt Fuller, commander of the 25th Infantry Division presents the Soldier's Medal to Spc. Raelani Quintanilla, a signal specialist with HHC, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, on Jan. 24 for the heroic actions taken by her husband that resulted in his death. The Soldier's Medal is the Army's highest award for valor in peacetime and is only presented to those who willingly risk their lives for another.

Fallen Hero receives Soldier's Medal

By Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Brigade Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – A young widow stood at the podium in tears. “I always felt safe just being by his side,” she said. It was clear her loss was immense and devastating. Her husband was being awarded the Army’s highest possible honor during peacetime.

Soldiers of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team held a ceremony the morning of Jan. 24 at Weyand Field to honor Spc. Jeremias Ortiz, a Soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice to save the life of his wife, Spc. Raelani Quintanilla, a signal support specialist with HHC, 2nd

SBCT.

Ortiz lost his life June 1, 2013 during a home invasion. He and Quintanilla were upstairs in their home when they heard a noise from the first floor. Ortiz, armed with a handgun, confronted the intruder, who was also armed. After a short exchange, a firefight ensued and Ortiz received two fatal gunshots to the neck while returning effective fire on the intruder and protecting his wife.

“It’s hard



sometimes realizing that he’s actually gone,” said Quintanilla. “Even though I’ve seen what I’ve seen its still feels surreal.”

“The Soldier’s Medal is the Army’s most prestigious peacetime award for valor and is but a small token to offer for the willing sacrifice Specialist Ortiz made for his wife,” said Col. Thomas Mackey, Commander of the 2nd SBCT.

The ceremony was more than just an awards presentation.

Ortiz was a hero, and this ceremony allowed everyone to know more about him.

“His personality was so captivating that he would draw people in and make instant connections with them everywhere we went,” said Quintanilla. “My husband was the type of person that would’ve risked his life to save a stranger. He always wanted to help others even if it meant giving the shirt off his back. I always felt safe and empowered just being by his side.”

“Specialist Ortiz’ actions are an example for Soldiers everywhere,” said Mackey. “He responded as we hope we all would respond if we were faced with a similar threat.



That is what the Soldier's medal is about, true personal courage in the face of danger or adversity.”

As the tears began to subside, Quintanilla shared a personal message to her husband.

“Our love was a true test of faith and I am so proud and honored to be your wife. You are my angel and I am so thankful that God blessed me with you. I can still see and hear your beautiful voice and laugh; that captivating smile that instantly warms my heart and radiates my soul. I will carry you with me till we meet again. I will love you forever and always.”

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson

Spc. Raelani Quintanilla, a signal specialist with HHC, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, speaks of the heroic actions taken by her husband that saved her life during a Soldier's Medal presentation ceremony on Jan 24. The Soldier's Medal is the Army's highest award for valor in peacetime and is only presented to those who willingly risk their lives for another.





U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Sgt. Jontae Greer and Spc. Tory Adkins receive tips from Sgt. Nariboot Seehanond, an infantry Soldier with 4th Infantry Division, Royal Thai Army, on how to season and prepare the chicken they had just freshly killed during Jungle Survival Training on Feb. 8. The Jungle Survival Course is part of the larger Exercise Cobra Gold 2014, a recurring multinational and multi service exercise, which takes place annually in the Kingdom of Thailand.

Gimlets go native in Thailand

By Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Brigade Public Affairs

BAN DAN LAN HOI, Thailand
— Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division participated in multiple Thai led Jungle Survival Training classes here throughout the month of Feb. as part of Exercise Cobra Gold 2014.

The JST class was designed to familiarize Soldiers with skills necessary for surviving in jungle terrain for extended periods of time with little or no support.

The ability to gather food and water from local resources as well

as identify hazards could very well save lives in future contingency missions in the Pacific.

“I was a little nervous to come to Thailand. It was my first time outside of the country,” said Pvt. Jesse Merrill, an Infantryman with 1-21 Inf., 2nd SBCT. “I joined the Army to visit new places and see different cultures, so it’s been really cool to train here.”

“This training I think is a once in a lifetime opportunity,” said Spc. Mathew DeJesus, an Infantryman with 1-21 Inf., 2nd SBCT. “I’m not sure if I would ever get this training without being here at Cobra Gold.”

During the training the Soldiers were taught how to capture local

wildlife safely and use it as a food source.

“We learned how to find food, vegetation and animal, fresh safe water and how to cook and prepare with very little materials. They had us kill the animals, prepare and cook them so we had the hands on experience,” said Merrill.

“The food portion was the most exciting part, they showed us how to eat a scorpion and a live gecko, it was very cool,” said DeJesus.

The highlight of the food portion of the training is always the drinking of King Cobra blood, a local tradition meant to instill bravery.

“Seeing the King Cobra was a little scary,” said Merrill. “We

were sitting so close to it when they brought it out I was a little bit nervous.”

“But, I had the chance to try the cobra blood straight from the snake’s body,” he continued. “It was awesome. It wasn’t the greatest tasting, but it’s a story I’ll tell to people the rest of my life.”

The ability to find clean drinking water from plants and food from local vegetation are key skills learned from this training. However, the time Soldiers spent working with their Thai counterparts helped to build confidence in their long-standing partnership, which is one of the main reasons for participating in Cobra Gold.

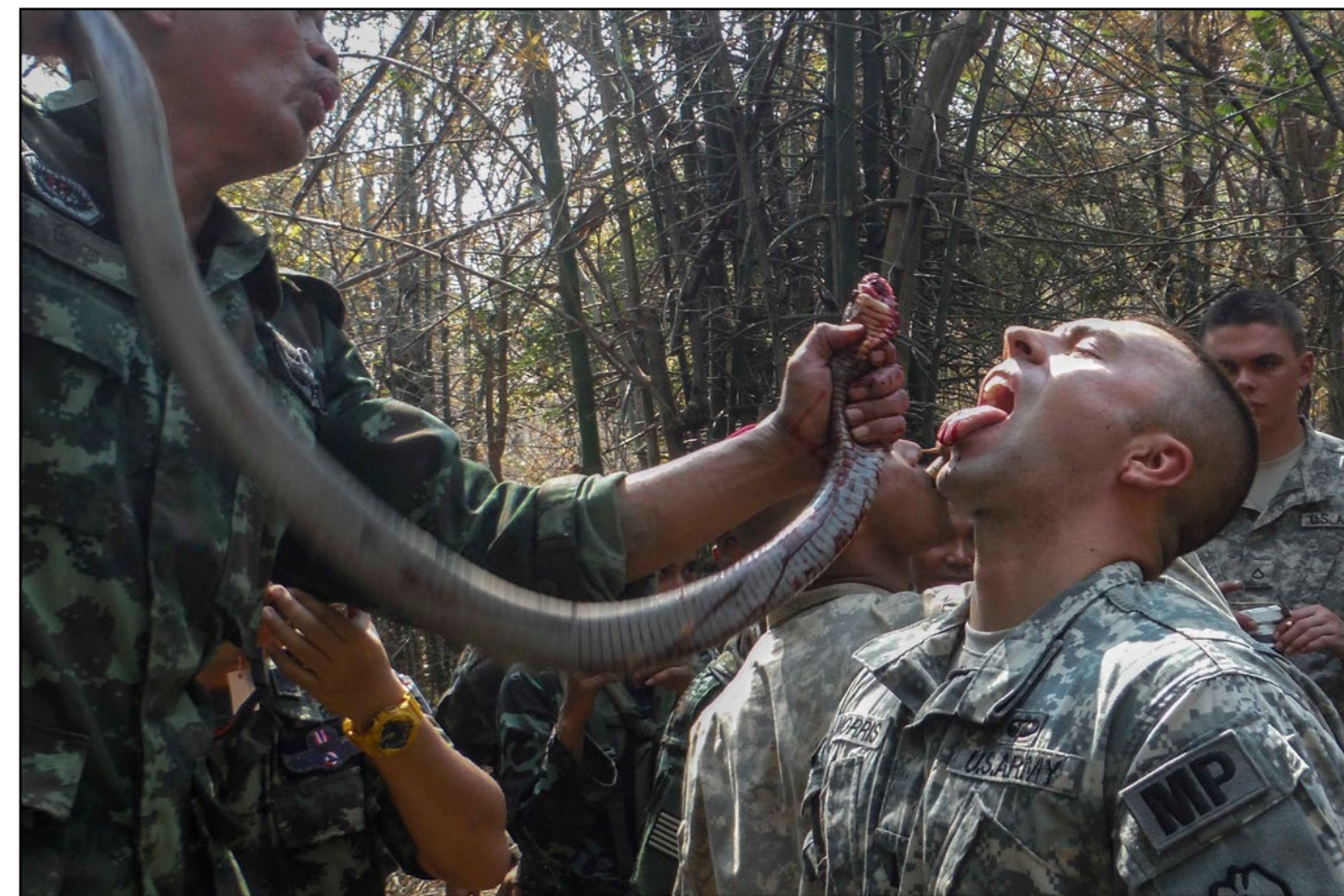
“I loved working with the Thai. They’re really friendly and very

helpful,” said DeJesus. “They are really hands on and willing to share their culture with us. I loved every minute of it.”

With the Army’s growing focus on the Pacific, training such as this helps to bolster the confidence of Soldiers when operating in this type of terrain. Future operations and multi-lateral training will benefit from the experiences the Soldiers had here in Thailand during Exercise Cobra Gold.

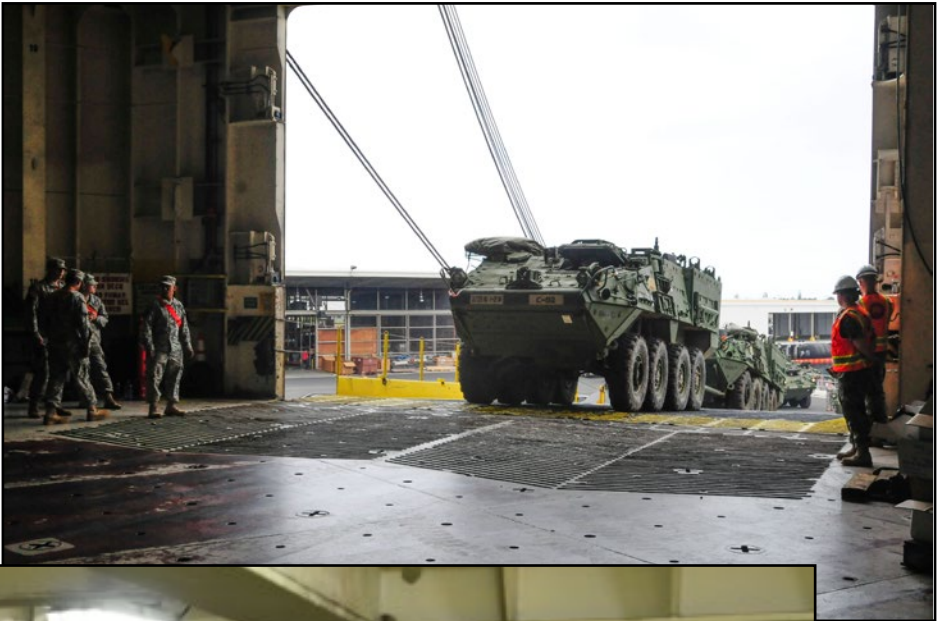
“I thought the Jungle Survival Training was neat as can be,” said Merrill. “It is something totally different that I’ve never experienced. We learned a lot, and now I know how to live in the jungle off of plants and animals if I need to.”

“I’m pretty sure I would be able to get by on the land now, whereas I probably would be hurting if I didn’t get to do this training,” said DeJesus. “I most definitely think I’m more prepared to operate in a jungle environment.”



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
1st Lt. James Morris, a force protection officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, drinks the blood of a freshly killed King Cobra, a Thai cultural act to instill bravery, during Jungle Survival Training as part of Cobra Gold Feb. 13. The Jungle Survival Course is part of the larger Exercise Cobra Gold 2014, a recurring multinational and multi service exercise, which takes place annually in the Kingdom of Thailand.

NTC Outload





U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Spc. Jacob Bennett and Spc. Zackery Geller, weapons mechanics, Capt. Seung Seo, a force protection officer and Pvt. Benjamin Marshburn, a generator mechanic, serve the first hot meal of the day on Feb. 7 to eagerly awaiting Soldiers during Exercise Cobra Gold. Exercise Cobra Gold is a recurring multinational and multiservice exercise, which takes place annually in the Kingdom of Thailand and was developed by the Thai and U.S. militaries.

225th BSB Supports Cobra Gold

By Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Brigade Public Affairs

BAN DAN LAN HOI, Thailand
– Soldiers of the 225th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division are supporting the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd SBCT, during Exercise Cobra Gold throughout the month of Feb. in the Kingdom of Thailand.

Exercise Cobra Gold is a recurring multinational and multiservice exercise which takes place annually in the Kingdom of Thailand and was developed by the Thai and U.S. militaries. CG 14 will consist

of a command post exercise, humanitarian and civic assistance projects, and a field training exercise.

The 225th BSB is providing medical care, field-feeding teams and essential health and welfare recommendations for commanders on the ground.

“Our mission is to support 1-21 during Cobra Gold,” said Staff Sgt. Jeff Turner, NCOIC of 225th BSB operations in Cobra Gold. “We provide food service, preventive medicine, medical care, weapons maintenance and generator repair.”

Supporting more than 400 Soldiers is no simple feat. Feeding that many people alone is a monumental task.

“There is no off time,” said Turner. “We start around 0300 and begin preparing breakfast. Once it is served, we need to break everything down and clean it. Then we have a couple of hours for personal hygiene and physical training before we start preparing for dinner. The dinner service and clean up after can run until 2200-2300.”

Feeding Soldiers in the field isn’t as simple as driving to the grocery store and buying ingredients.

“When you go to a foreign country, on average, 30-40% of people will get sick from food or water related illnesses,” said Capt. Seung Seo, the officer in charge of 225th BSB during Cobra Gold. “We

try to mitigate those risk factors so that the Soldiers can do their jobs without getting sick.”

“For the water, we test for chlorine and take samples to incubate and test for e-coli and other pathogens,” he continued. “The food has temperature checks from the supplier up to when it is delivered to us. We also ensure proper sanitation and cooking methods.”

One of the most dangerous factors to deal with is the high heat and humidity levels in the region.

“We monitor the heat and humidity levels to provide a heat category to the commanders and recommended work and rest cycles. Water consumption is a critical factor in keeping the Soldiers healthy,” said Seo.

“We bring in about 500 five-gallon bottles of water and a little over 12,000 bottles of water every four days,” said Turner.

Vector borne diseases such as malaria are also a concern in the region. Seo, who is also the Force Health Protection officer, and the Physician’s Assistant from 225th BSB, Maj. Michael O’Leary, have a way to mitigate that as well.

“For vector borne diseases such as malaria, we prescribe a prophylactic antibiotic,” said Seo. “We also gather insect samples to see what types of insects are in the area, this gives us a good indication as to what possible diseases could be a threat.”

“The other aspect of ensuring the success of the antibiotic is enforcing its use along with other

measures, such as mosquito nets,” said O’Leary.

All of the preparation and support of 1-21 during Cobra Gold gives real world experience for the Soldiers in the 225th.

“Being able to conduct these types of test in an austere environment is real world practice for future operations in the National Training Center and other contingency missions,” said Seo.

Cobra Gold 14, in its 33rd iteration, is designed to advance regional security and ensure effective response to regional crises. The experience the Soldiers of the 225th gain here will help ensure they have the ability to proficiently perform their mission in the future.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Capt. Seung Seo, OIC of the 225th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team during Cobra Gold, gathers a local tap water sample for testing Feb. 6, during Cobra Gold 2014. Exercise Cobra Gold is a recurring multinational and multiservice exercise, which takes place annually in the Kingdom of Thailand and was developed by the Thai and U.S. militaries.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Kailer Suerth, a gold star family member with Survivors Outreach Services, laughs after radioing for a Soldier across to the area to do push-ups during the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment SOS Organizational day April 1. The event was part of ongoing efforts to ensure family members of fallen Soldiers are kept in the Army Family.

1-14 adopts Gold Star Families

By Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Brigade Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – Sons, daughters, parents and spouses of fallen Soldiers gathered here April 4 for an organizational day with the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, “Golden Dragons,” as part of Survivor Outreach Services.

The day-long event was held to ensure the families of fallen Soldiers are kept in the Army family. Being able to interact with Soldiers and experience the Army life again can be beneficial to survivors.

“I didn’t expect that they would

have all of this,” said Fe Suait, mother of Staff Sgt. Randy Agno who died serving his third tour in Iraq in 2009. “This helped me to remember things about my son, he used to be here.”

“Things can get difficult,” said Rachel Suerth, wife of Sgt. Keoki Suerth who died in 2007. “It is good to have other people to talk to.”

The day started early with physical training, breakfast in the dining facility and then finished off with various military tasks and obstacles.

“It is great for the kids. This is what their parents did,” said Suerth. “The military is still a part of us and this group is great because they still involve us.”

“This is my son’s home to me,” said Suait. “If I have a chance to come over here, even just for sight seeing, it helps. I feel like a Golden Dragon and part of the military Family.”

This event provided a chance for the survivors to step into the boots of their loved ones for a day.

“I really enjoyed wearing the armor. It is very heavy,” said Suait. “Participating in the events was very interesting.”

“I want to join the Army when I grow up,” said Kailer Suerth, Rachel’s son. “I want to work with computers like my dad did. I want to serve my country.”

“What we’re doing for these kids

is amazing. It is important for them to see the side of the Army that is all about the Family,” said Pvt. 1st Class Jesse Garza, an infantryman with 1-14 Infantry Regiment “Golden Dragons.” “I can understand what it feels like to lose someone dear to you, that’s why I volunteered.”

Ensuring our survivors still feel as though they are part of the Army family is a task the Golden Dragons are happy to help with.



“I love this,” said Garza. “Hanging out with the kids and seeing them have a good time with Soldiers is amazing.”

“It is really nice that I have a chance to come here again,” said Suait. “I used to drop him off for work. I thought I would never come again.”

“The units that agree to adopt us for special events like this means a lot to us. It shows our kids a part of their parents’ life and what the Army is really like,” said Suerth.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Johnson
Fe Suait, a gold star family member with Survivors Outreach Services, dons protective armor and a gas mask during the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment SOS Organizational day April 1. The event was part of ongoing efforts to ensure family members of fallen Soldiers are kept in the Army Family.



Sexual Assault Awareness Month



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and the Warrior Brigade did its part to raise awareness of and help put an end to sexual assault and sexual harassment. At the first of the month, the brigade SHARP representatives held a Ruck March Challenge in which the winners got bragging rights and a four-day pass. A little later in the month, the brigade SHARPs and the 25th Infantry Division co-sponsored a golf scramble held at the Leilehua Golf Course. As a final event before pushing out the door to NTC, the brigade held a run before which Col. Mackey talked to the gathered Soldiers about the significance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



Strykehorse conducts situational training

Story by 2nd Lt. Nathaniel Harvey
2-14 Cavalry Squadron Public Affairs Representative

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii—Soldiers of the 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, executed platoon situational training exercises in preparation for a rotation to the National Training Center, here throughout the month of February. STX lanes are mission- related, limited exercises designed to train one collective task, or group of related tasks and drills through practice in a realistic training environment . The teams focused on area reconnaissance and convoy maneuvering missions in Strykers with multiple named Areas of Interest to seek out any potential

enemy threat..

“The operation that was given challenged the team and it took effort and crew determination to achieve success at mission index,” said Sgt. Daniel Barbin, a cavalry scout squad leader with C Troop. “The training had six known Areas of Interest that crews had to provide area reconnaissance to seek out enemy targets.”

The crews focused on mission as weather played a factor on the visibility and terrain of the training. “The dense fog



and rain gave the training a more realistic example of potential visual disadvantages crews may face in combat situations,” said Barbin.

Soldiers had to maintain communications at all times as they monitored the Area of Operation and sent SALUTE reports which gave enemy size, activity, location, unit identification, time and equipment.

“Our experienced non-commissioned officers trained Soldiers to the standard which ensured capable crews in live mission execution,” said Sgt.

U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Nathaniel Harvey

A Stryker from 2-14 Cav. waits to be called into action at dusk during a situational training exercise at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii. 2-14 spent time training at PTA in order to prepare for the upcoming brigade deployment to the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, Calif.



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Nathaniel Harvey
Soldiers from A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment plan out their operation using a sand table. Sand tables are terrain maps set up to depict the area in which a unit will be maneuvering, and are an invaluable planning tool for any unit about to go into combat.

U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Nathaniel Harvey
Sgt. Daniel Barbin and Spc. Vincent Mei, cavalry scouts from C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, scan their sectors to check terrain and look for enemies during a situational training exercise at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii. 2-14 spent time training at PTA in order to prepare for the upcoming brigade deployment to the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, Calif.



Michael Bamba, a Squad leader from Bravo Section, 3rd Platoon, A-troop, “Overall, I feel that our crews are good, but there is always room for improvement. It has only been a couple of days and we are all much more proficient than we were prior to this training.”

The training exposed crews to multiple combat scenarios. Engaging enemy targets, vehicle malfunctions, weather conditions, and broken radio signals were just some of the common obstacles that were faced during training.

“The better understanding we have of how to execute, the better survivability we will have when engaging the enemy,” said Bamba. “The environment was also an accurate simulation of being in a deployment atmosphere. The frequent changes in temperature, weather conditions and terrain gave Soldiers a real experience of what life can be like while deployed.”

